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Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

Staff Report: Sabin Street – Downtown – Ward 1 (For Action)

Presented at June 19, 2019 BPAC meeting

Project Background

The City of Providence Department of Planning and Development seeks comments from the BPAC regarding concepts for the resurfacing of Sabin Street. This will be a conceptual level review of the project.

The 2019 Capital Improvement Program repaving plan was reviewed by BPAC in March 2018. Those projects are under construction in summer 2019, and as the projects' budgets are finalized, enough funding may become available in the program to repave a few additional streets this fall. One possibility for that additional work is Sabin St.

Project Location

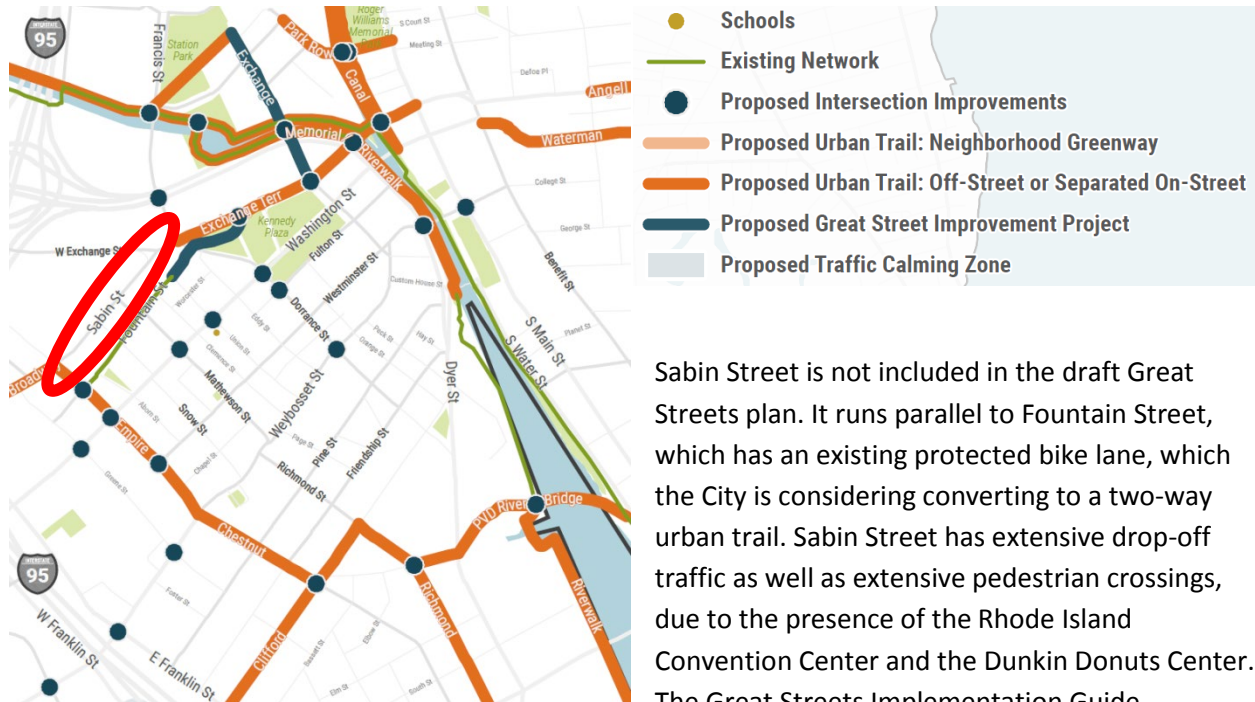


Great Streets context

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Sabin Street is not included in the draft Great Streets plan. It runs parallel to Fountain Street, which has an existing protected bike lane, which the City is considering converting to a two-way urban trail. Sabin Street has extensive drop-off traffic as well as extensive pedestrian crossings, due to the presence of the Rhode Island Convention Center and the Dunkin Donuts Center. The Great Streets Implementation Guide

recommends standards for street design on Downtown A Streets such as Sabin Street that prioritize comfort for road uses besides single-occupancy motor vehicles, such as walking, biking, and transit.

Staff Recommendations

- Sabin Street should be redesigned to enhance pedestrian crossings, especially at Empire Street, Snow Street, and at West Exchange Street. Enhancements should reduce pedestrian crossing distances to no more than 30 feet, either through curb bump-outs or refuge islands. The crossings at Empire Street and West Exchange Street should be wide enough to accommodate high volumes of pedestrian traffic, at least 20 feet wide. Raised crosswalks should be considered at these locations. A new mid-block crossing should be considered between Snow Street and Mathewson Street between the southwestern entrance of the Convention Center and the new Marriott Residence Inn at 111 Fountain Street currently under construction.
- Traffic calming measures should be implemented on West Exchange Street between Sabin Street and Francis Street or on Sabin Street near West Exchange Street to reduce motor vehicle speeds, as well as to reduce speeds at each pedestrian crossing of Sabin Street.

Respectfully submitted by Alex Ellis.